



Reporter's Notebook: Brenda Norrell

Language

• Spanish

Sounds of Resistance: Native American Music Awards 2008

Posted by **Brenda Norrell** - October 5, 2008 at 2:01 pm

By Brenda Norrell

TUCSON -- Congratulations to the thirty winners of Native American Music Awards at the 10th annual celebration on the Seneca Nation in New York Saturday night. The sounds and performances revealed the pursuit of excellence from traditional sounds to rock, reggae, folk and hip hop. The award ceremony was broadcast live on the web, with a rapid fire chat room.

Two of the top winners, each capturing double awards, Blackfire and Native Roots, also deserve an award in the "keeping it real" category for their enduring efforts for international human rights, Indigenous sovereignty and the preservation of Native cultures.

Blackfire's Klee, Clayson and Jeneda Benally, with their father Jones Benally, have upheld the standard of no compromise in the fight for dignity and human rights for Indigenous Peoples around the world. From their home in Flagstaff, Arizona, with the foundation of their father's homeland in Big Mountain on the Navajo Nation, Blackfire has established a new standard for Native American youths and resistance to colonization. Blackfire's "(Silence) is a Weapon" captured the Best Record Award for 2008 and the Native Heart Award, with recognition for producer Ed Stasium.

Native Roots, awarded Group of the Year and Best World Recording is based in Albuquerque. Native Roots has carried this unique reggae, traditional and folk mix of sounds from the Pueblos in New Mexico to the Maori in New Zealand, always inspiring hope and celebrating the beauty of Indigenous cultures.

Both Native Roots and Blackfire have always put others needs above their own, sealing their place in history not only as award-winning Native musicians, but music makers who have fine-tooled sound and lyrics as a vehicle for social change and building a better world.

Jim Boyd's selection as Artist of the Year will be celebrated by all those who remember his sound with the empowering XIT, among the best Native American bands of all time, which fueled the birth of the Red Power movement in the 70s. Boyd's 11th release, "Blues to Bluegrass," on Thunderwolf Records, includes an American Indian mix of rock, bluegrass, blues and folk with reflections on Coyote the trickster. Congratulations to 10th Annual NAMMY Award Winners 2008:

Lifetime Achievement Award: Johnny Curtis
 Best World Music: Native Roots
 Best Blues Recording: "Deep Downtown" Jimmy Wolf
 Best Compilation Recording Old Style Round Dance: Various Artists
 Best Country Recording: "No Lies" Tracy Bone
 Debut Artist of the Year: Cheryl Bear
 Debut Group of the Year: Injunuity
 Best Female Artist: Nicole
 Best Folk Recording: "Where the Green Grass Grows," The Crow Girls
 Flutist of the Year: Jan Michael Looking Wolf
 Best Gospel Inspirational: "Precious Memories," Cherokee National Youth Choir
 Group of the Year: Native Roots
 Best Historical Recording: "Chief Seattle Speaks 1854," Red Hawk
 Best Instrumental Recording: "Mirror Lake," Golana
 Best Male Artist: Edmund Bull
 Best Native American Church Recording: "New Beginning," Janelle Turtle
 Best New Age Recording "Homeland Security," Medicine Crow
 Best Pop Recording: "Phoenix," Fara Palmer
 Best Pow Wow Recording: "Hear the Beat," Blackfoot Confederacy
 Best Producer: Adrian Brown, Tim Sampson, Jonathan Joss, "Still No Good"
 Best Rap Hip Hop Recording: "Native American Hustle," Dago Braves
 Record of the Year: "(Silence) is a Weapon," Blackfire
 Best Rock Recording: "The Sun & the Earth," Stevie Salas
 Song Single of the Year: "Broken Dreams," Nightshield
 Songwriter of the Year: Star Nayeay
 Best Spoken Recording: "The Story Tellers," Ken Quiet
 Best Traditional Recording: "Traditional Navajo Shoe Songs," Gilbert Begay, Sr.
 Best Short Form Music Video: "The Enlightened Time," JANA
 Best Long Form Video: "Live at Mount Rushmore: Concert for Reconciliation of Cultures," Brule & Airo
 Best World Music Recording: "Celebrate," Native Roots

About Brenda Norrell

Personal Website

<http://www.bsnorrell.blogspot.com/>

Biography

Brenda Norrell has been a news reporter in Indian country for 26 years. She is currently based in Tucson and covers Mexico, the U.S. borders and the West, focusing on Indigenous Peoples and human rights. She recently cohosted the five-month Longest Walk talk radio across America, with American Indians walking for sacred Mother Earth.

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Native Heart: Ed Stasium producer for "(Silence) is a Weapon"
 The Native American Music Awards 10th anniversary celebration, was held at the Seneca Niagara Hotel & Casino.

Along with the winners, those inducted into the NAMMY Hall of Fame were: Rickey Medlocke of Blackfoot, selling over 5 million records with his hits "Train Train" and "Highway Song;" Pat Vegas of Redbone which reached the Top 5 of the Billboard Hot 100 charts in 1974 with the song, "Come and Get Your Love;" Janice-Marie Johnson of A Taste of Honey, with multi-platinum smash hit "Boogie Oogie Oogie;" and Felipe Rose of the Village People.

NAMMY presenters and performers included Joanne Shenandoah and Robert Tree Cody, Chucki Begay, Navajo, from Tucson, Blues recording artist CornBred, Canada's Edmund Bull, New Mexico's Native Roots, South Dakota's Rap Hip/Hop artists Nightshield and Maniac The Siouxpernatural, female power vocalists Star Naye'a & Pura Fe', The Cherokee National Youth Choir, Iroquois Dancers, Trevor Jones & Young Gunz plus Indian Country's preeminent comedian and ventriloquist, Buddy Big Mountain, and more.

The Great grandson of Geronimo, Houston Geronimo and Lance White Magpie, a direct descendant of Crazy Horse served as special guest presenters.

Photos and links at: <http://www.bsnorrell.blogspot.com>

Listen to those award winning sounds at: <http://www.votenative.com>

Special thanks to Single Feather Media for the live web broadcast, making it possible for people around the world to watch the show live and talk it over in the chat room:

Single Feather Media (www.singlefeathermedia.com)

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